

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MAY 10 INDOCHINA PRESS SUMMARY

1. NYT' S GWERTZMAN ATTENDS GODLEY CONFIRMATION HEARING

AND HIGHLIGHTS AMBASSADOR'S ASSERTION US PAYING \$26 MILLION YEARLY FOR 15-20,000 THAI IRREGULARS IN LAOS, DESPITE VN AND LAOS C- F. FIGURE REPRESENTS MARKED INCREASE, ACCORDING GWERTZMAN, OVER 5-8000 ESTIMATED IN LAOS UNTIL RECENTLY. SENATE SOURCE SAYS INCREASE TOOK PLACE IN OCTOBER 1972. FULBRIGHT TELLS GODLEY \$350 MILLION AID TO LAOS IS " CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY" IN ARKANSAS. AT HEARINGS ON NOMINATIONS OF AMBS. SULLIVAN AND MARTIN, FULBRIGHT SAID ALTHOUGH HE RESPECTS ALL THREE MEN, HE DISTURBED THEY " INTRICATELY INVOLVED" IN INDOCHINA AFFAIRS AND WOULD REMAIN SO ( NYT). MARTIN DECLINES ANSWER IN OPEN SESSION FULBRIGHT QUESTIONING WHETHER HE HAD RECOMMENDED USE OF SECRET US FUNDS TO INFLUENCE ITALIAN POLITICS. HEARINGS CONTINUE TODAY ( NYT).

2. GWERTZMAN ALSO REPORTS SECRETARY, AT POORLY- ATTENDED SFRC AFTERNOON SESSION, HEARD SENATORIAL REBUTTALS OF ADMIN'S JUSTIFICATION FOR CAMBODIA BOMBING. MANSFIELD SAYS BOMBING " OUTRAGEOUS" AND HE WOULD FIGHT TO PREVENT SPENDING ANY MORE MONEY FOR MILITARY EFFORT. JAVITS SAYS DOS LEGAL BRIEF ON BOMBING REPRESENTS " UNTENABLE CASE BUILT ON FALSE PREMISES." ROGERS SAYS

BOMBING IS " STICK" DESIGNED CONVINCE HANOI ABIDE BY VN AGREEMENT AND BRING ABOUT KHMER C- F. SECRETARY " HELD OUT HOPE" THAT KISSINGER- THO TALKS THIS MONTH " WOULD BE FRUITFUL," AND WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR RESUMPTION OF JEC TALKS BECAUSE " WE THINK THEY ARE STILL SERIOUS ABOUT WANTING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE."

3. MARDER REPORTS SECRETARY TRIED PERSUADE CONGRESS HOLD OFF ATTACKS ON CAMBODIA BOMBING POLICY UNTIL AFTER NEXT HAK- THO TALKS. SECRETARY " CONFIDENT" TWO WILL MEET BUT DECLINED NAME DATE. MARDER SAYS ROGERS, WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING HE HAD DONE SO, " BACKTRACKED" UNDER UNCLASSIFIED

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QUESTIONING ABOUT US CHARGES THAT HANOI HAS VIOLATED ARTICLE 20 BY AVOIDING C- F IN CAMBODIA. ACCORDING MARDER, SECRETARY SAID " WE DON' T CLAIM IT IS A LITERAL VIOLATION ( BUT) IT IS CLEARLY A VIOLATION OF THE UNDERSTANDING WE HAD WITH THE OTHER SIDE." MARDER SEES SENATE OPPOSITION TO BOMBING POLICY " STRONG AND INDIGNANT" BUT " DISJOINTED AND UNCOORDINATED." MARDER REPORTED SECRETARY'S ASSERTION HE " ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE NORTH VIETNAMESE " FUNDAMENTALLY WANT THE AGREEMENT TO WORK," AND HIS PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VIOLATIONS OF VN C- F ON BOTH SIDES. ON GODLEY HEARING, NOTES DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS REFERENCE TO 15-20 THOUSAND THAI IRREGULARS IN LAOS AND FIGURE OF LESS THAN HALF THAT MARDER SAYS WAS PREVIOUSLY ON

PUBLIC RECORD ( WP).

4. UPI PP ( NYT, NYDN) REPORTS KI FORCES SHIFT OPS AWAY FROM CITY, ATTACKING KOMPONG CHAM AND NEARBY VILLAGES ALONG MAJOR ROADS NE OF PP. US PLANES STRIKE NEAR TAKEO AND ALONG ROUTE 5 NW OF PP.

5. RVN MILITARY SOURCEREVEAL VC ATTACKED AND DESTROYED DELTA VILLAGE LAST THURSDAY KILLING 21 VILLAGERS AND WOUNDING 40 MORE. THIEU PRESENTS BUNKER RVN' S HIGHEST AWARD AND GIVES FAREWELL BLAST IN HIS HONOR. HANOI CHARGES US TORTURED COMMUNIST POWS AND CARRIED OUT " SURGICAL EXPERIMENTS." UP TO 40 OF RETURNEES SUFFERED MENTAL DISORDERS AND 30 PERCENT HAD SKIN DISEASES CAUSED BY POISONOUS CHEMICALS, ACCORDING DRV NEWS AGENCY. PRG PARIS PROPOSES NEW C- F ENFORCEMENT MEASURES WHICH GVN REJECTS ( WP, NYT).

6. BUTTERFIELD, IN SAIGON, REPORTS THIEU GIVING FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO CHAU' S PETITION HE NOT BE RELEASED TO COMMUNISTS, ACCORDING GVN SPOKESMAN.

BUT IF THIS HAPPENS, CHAU WILL HAVE TO SERVE REMAINING SEVEN OF HIS TEN- YEAR TERM. BUTTERFIELD NOTES BUNKER HAD BEEN WIDELY CRITICIZED " BY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN SAIGON" FOR NOT HAVING USED HIS INFLUENCE  
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TO GET CHAU RELEASED EARLIER ( NYT).

7. ASSEMBLY MEMBER AND HEAD OF SVN' S LARGEST BANK JAILED ON EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGES. NGUYEN TAN DOI WAS PRO- GOVERNMENT LEGISLATOR AND REPORTEDLY ON FRIENDLY TERMS WITH THIEU. OPPOSITION LEGISLATORS PROTEST GVN VIOLATED DOI' S ASSEMBLY IMMUNITY ( NYT).

8. LYONS PREDICTS HOUSE MAY CAST ANTIWAR VOTE TODAY FOR FIRST TIME IN SIX YEARS WHEN IT VOTES ON CAMBODIA BOMBING FUNDS. HOUSE DEM CAUCUS ON ISSUE WAS CANCELLED, HOWEVER, DUE LACK OF QUORUM AND GERALD FORD NOW MORE OPTIMISTIC THAT FUNDS WILL BE APPROVED THAN HE WAS WEEK AGO ( WP). SEHLSTEDT NOTES HEATED DEBATE AMONG REPUBLICANS OVER ISSUE ( SUN). CSM' S STROUT ANALYZES OFT- REPORTED CONSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER ISSUES INVOLVED IN BOMBING FUNDS DEBATE.

9. CSM' S GODSELL, IN TAIPEI, REPORTS SOME OF DOUGLAS PIKE' S VIEWS ON INDOCHINA: COMMUNISTS PROBABLY WON' T TRY OCCUPY PP OR VIENTIANE; HANOI STILL PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH SVN AND ITS UNCHANGED DETERMINATION TO UNITE BOTH PARTS OF COUNTRY UNDER HANOI' S CONTROL; LAOS AND KHMER OPS SUBORDINATED

TO THAT GOAL; PRG- GVN PARIS POL TALKS NOT HOPEFUL;  
SITUATION IN SVN IS MILITARY STALEMATE AND POLITICAL  
STANDOFF; USG TENDS TO OVERESTIMATE MOSCOW' S  
INFLUENCE IN HANOI; EVENTUAL SETTLEMENT IN VN MORE  
LIKELY TO COME ABOUT THROUGH SOME KIND OF POLITICAL  
DEAL THAN THROUGH BALLOT BOX.

1 10. REUTER PP REPORTS LON NOL THREATENS DISSOLVE  
NEW STATE COUNCIL UNLESS OPPOSITION MEMBERS AGREE  
PASS ON SOME OF THEIR NEWLY- ACQUIRED POWERS TO  
COALITION CABINET. POL TALKS BROKEN OFF TUESDAY,  
AND RUPTURE THREATENS PLANS TO BROADEN GKR BASE.  
LON NOL AND SIRIK MATAK SAID TO FAVOR COUNCIL SHARING  
POWERS WITH NEW PREMIER, UHILE IN TAM AND CHENG HENG  
WANT TO KEEP ITS POWERS INTACT ( SUN).

11. EVANS/ NOVAK ( WP), IN PP, SEE NIXON DOCTRINE  
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FAILING MOST CRITICAL TEST IN CAMBODIA BECAUSE OF  
CRIPPLING CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND NUMBING  
HANGOVER FROM VN WAR. CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS  
AGAINST US MILITARY ADVISERS DOOM FANK TO PERPETUAL  
INCOMPETENCY AND CAMBODIAN INDEPENDENCE FROM  
HANOI IS MAINTAINED BY US BOMBING WHICH CONGRESS THREATENS  
TO END, THEREBY NULLIFYING ALL BLOOD AND  
TREASURE INVESTED BY US IN SVN. PROPER ROLE OF SWANK,  
SKILLED DIPLOMAT, HAS NEVER BEEN CLEARLY DEFINED.  
THOUGH MUCH MORE THAN CONVENTIONAL AMBASSADOR  
( HE PERSONALLY APPROVED US BOMBING IN CAMBODIA), HE  
WAS NOT VESTED WITH PROCONSULAR AUTHORITY OF US  
AMBASSADORS IN LAOS. CONSEQUENTLY, HE HAD NO CLEAR  
MANDATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT LON NOL, WHO WAS ISOLATED  
FROM REALITY. THIS WAS CLEAR ENOUGH TO EMBASSY, BUT  
NOT TO VISITING GENERALS AND ADMIRALS. REGALLY  
ENTERTAINED AT PALACE, LATTER SENT BACK GLOWING REPORTS  
ON LON NOL WHILE SOME DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY OFFICERS  
HERE FOUND THEIR REGULAR REPORTING CENSORED. HANOI  
HAS NO SUCH PROBLEMS. SIHANOUK IS A FIGUREHEAD;  
HANOI- TRAINED CAMBODIAN CADRES ARE IN CHARGE. WITH  
NEITHER LON NOL' S FEEBLE REGIME NOR SHACKLED NIXON  
ADMINISTRATION EFFECTIVELY RESPONDING TO MILITARY  
PRESSURE, PROSPECTS ARE POOR THAT NIXON DOCTRINE WILL  
PRESERVE CAMBODIAN INDEPENDENCE.

12. RICHARD WILSON ( S- N, MAY 9) OBSERVES THAT  
PRESIDENT HAS SUCCESSFULLY RELIED IN PAST ON INSTINCTIVE  
PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENCY IN TIMES OF CRISIS, AS  
IN CASES OF CAMBODIAN INCURSION, MINING OF HAIPHONG  
AND BOMBING OF NVN. INDICATES THAT BECAUSE OF WATER-  
GATE, IT IS INCONCEIVABLE PRESIDENT COULD REACT TO  
NVN ACTIONS WITH RESOLUTION AND ASSURANCE HE EXHIBITED

IN PAST. SAIGON SILENCE OVER NVN MILITARY BUILDUP IS OVERWHELMING. IS AS IF THIEU, HAVING RECEIVED PRESIDENT' S ASSURANCE OF SUPPORT AT SAN CLEMENTE AND WASHINGTON, CONCLUDED THAT NIXON WOULD ORDER B52 S INTO ACTION AGAIN AGAINST N VIETNAMESE AND IS BIDING HIS TIME. UNDER NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT WOULD BE SERIOUS MISJUDGMENT OF THIEU' S PART.

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13. WP EDITORIAL ATTACKS ADMINISTRATION POLICY IN CAMBODIA. ( TEXT GOING TO EA ON " X" FILE).

14. DETROIT NEWS ( MAY 3) NOTES ADMINISTRATION' S \$2.9 BILLION REQUEST TO CONGRESS FOR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID OMMITS AID FOR HANOI. CONCEPT OF AID TO FORMER ADVERSARIES IS GOOD ONE, AND NIXON CAN REVIVE HIS RECONSTRUCTION PLANS IF AND WHEN HANOI DROPS ADVERSARY ROLE. NATIONAL REVIEW ( MAY 11) AND NEW ORLEANS TIMES- PICAYUNE ( MAY 6) SUGGEST NEED TO GET CHINESE AND RUSSIAN SUPPORT FOR HANOI OBSERVANCE OF PARIS ACCORDS.

15. LAT' S LESLIE, IN PP, REPORTS ON GKR CENSORSHIP WHICH SOME JOURNALISTS FIND CIRCUMVENTABLE NUISANCE. OTHERS WHO MUST REPORT NEWS SPEEDILY FIND " PIGEONING" - HAVING SOMEONE CARRY STORY ABROAD AND SEE THAT IT IS CABLED TO JOURNALIST' S HOME OFFICE - SERIOUS PROBLEM. QUOTES US OFFICIAL AS REMARKING ON GKR CENSORSHIP: " YOU HAVE A RULE AND YOU ENFORCE IT, BUT YOU DON' T EXPECT IT TO BE EFFECTIVE. THAT' S HOW THINGS WORK AROUND HERE."

16. LAT' S FOISIE, IN BANGKOK, DOES FAVORABLE ROUNDUP OF THAI EFFORTS TO CRACK DOWN ON OPIUM TRAFFIC. NOTES HIGH- LEVEL THAI SUPPORT FOR CRACKDOWN; MAKES REFRESHING COMMENT THAT " HIGHEST- LEVEL OFFICIALS IN THE THAI GOVERNMENT, UNLIKE THOSE IN CERTAIN OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES, HAVE NEVER BEEN IMPLICATED IN PROFITING FROM THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE." ROGERS

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